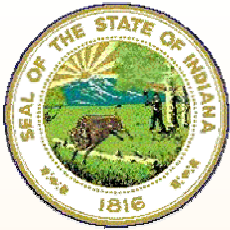


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Dear Friends:

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of a few of the issues facing legislators as we begin the 114th Indiana General Assembly in January. The four-month long session, by law, must adjourn on or before April 29, 2005. During that time, lawmakers will consider hundreds of proposals and make public policy decisions that will affect Indiana and its citizens for the next several years.

How to reduce property taxes, properly fund public schools, provide relief for Hoosiers most affected by rising health care costs, enhance economic development initiatives, continue efforts to retrain our workforce and create more jobs are just a few of the issues to be considered as we work together to make Indiana an even better place to live, work and raise our families.

Crafting a new state budget for the next two fiscal years will top the legislative agenda. Although we have managed to maintain solid reserves throughout the national recession, the state is facing a gap between expected spending and projected revenues. The key to managing the budget will be to cut spending by finding new efficiencies, consolidating agencies and eliminating ineffective programs. It is also important that we protect services and funding for education, or Indiana will lose its ability to develop economically and grow our way out of the current fiscal situation.

I would like to request your input on the enclosed survey, which deals with legislation likely to be considered. I hope you will take time to complete the survey online or return it to me by mail. Once all responses have been tallied, you will receive the survey results.

Additionally, you will find information on how to get involved and stay informed. Subscribe to receive my legislative updates online or return the form on the back page to receive them by mail. Log on to the General Assembly's web site at www.in.gov/legislative to obtain full bill texts and committee hearing information. You can also contact me for legislative information or if you are experiencing any problems with which I can be of assistance.

As your State Senator, it is my job to communicate to the General Assembly the issues that matter most to the citizens of Senate District 10. Most of the bills enacted will in some way affect all of us, our families and our communities. Please contact me by phone, mail or email, and let me know your thoughts and concerns. The legislative process works best when citizens get involved. I look forward to hearing from you.

Wishing you a healthy and prosperous New Year,

Issues confronting education

Legislators will be dealing with a host of education issues this year. While creating a new state appropriation plan, fiscal members will examine one of the budget's biggest components - **education funding**. There will be renewed efforts to provide adequate funding for school corporations based on each community's needs and challenges.

How to continue progress on **school standards and accountability** given the state's budget restrictions will also be an important issue. The federal No Child Left Behind Act, which requires the implementation of higher standards and greater teacher accountability, has never been fully funded by the federal government forcing the state to dip into its own reserves.



Last year, knowing the importance of **early childhood learning opportunities**, legislators came close to passing a comprehensive program to expand optional full-day kindergarten and other early education programs. Regrettably, agreement could not be reached on how to fund the initiative. Consequently, this school year only 6,000 students attend full-day kindergarten statewide, although there are more than 500,000 Hoosiers under the age of

six. It is my hope that this initiative will be re-introduced and receive further consideration. Additionally, lawmakers may consider a different approach that would move the current kindergarten enrollment date from July 1 to September 1.

The **Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress Plus test (ISTEP+)** is a tool used to assess the educational progress of students in grades 3, 6, 8 and 10. The test is currently given in the Fall so teachers can continue to work with students in areas that need more attention. Legislation may be considered to move the test to the Spring to better assess what students have learned. Opponents of the change feel that conducting the test in the Spring would leave little time to address problems.

***K-12 Education
accounts for 36%
of Indiana's
annual budget.***

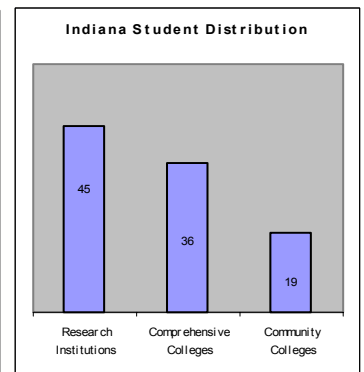
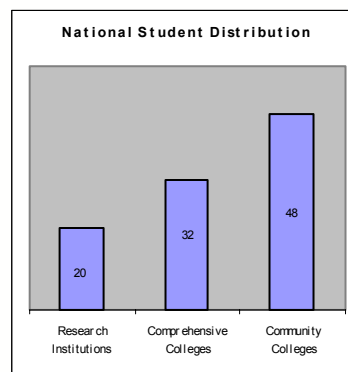
Addressing the rising costs of higher education

Last summer, the Task Force on College Affordability began studying the rising costs of a college education and making policy recommendations to ensure that college remains an option for all Hoosiers. Increased tuition stems from many sources such as higher student enrollment and economic problems, but this complicated issue must be pursued to safeguard affordable education.

The Task Force highlighted structural issues to help address education costs. Enrollment in Indiana higher educational institutions differs from the national distribution of students attending research institutions (e.g. Indiana and Purdue Universities), comprehensive colleges (e.g. Ball State University) and community colleges (e.g. Ivy Tech). Indiana tends to educate the majority of its students in the more expensive major research institutions, but many students might be better served by attending a comprehensive or community college. The challenge is for community and comprehensive colleges to absorb additional students at a reasonable cost.

Indiana can take further action by providing incentives to colleges that graduate students within four years, instead of placing significance on enrollment. Students often take more than four years to complete their degrees for many reasons, which drives up the costs.

These are a few actions the General Assembly must consider to address lowering college costs. My hope is we will be able to enact legislation that will enable more Hoosiers to afford quality higher education.



2005 Legislative Survey

Feel free to have another family member respond to questions in column #2.

You may also complete this survey on-line at www.in.gov/S10

Respondent
#1

Respondent
#2

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1. Should Indiana join several other states in a new drug-import program to make cheaper prescription drugs available from Canada and Europe, despite a federal ban on the imports? | 1. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Currently, 15 of Indiana's 92 counties observe daylight-saving time during the spring and summer months. This does <u>not</u> include St. Joseph County. Would you support legislation to require that the entire state observe daylight-saving time as proposed by Governor-elect Daniels? | 2. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Should the General Assembly approve legislation to authorize video gambling machines at Indiana's horse racetracks and off-track betting facilities to support the struggling horse racing industry? | 3. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Would you support legislation to authorize the use of public funding to provide vouchers for children to attend private schools? | 4. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. The Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress-Plus (ISTEP+) test is currently given in the fall to students in Grades 3, 6, 8 and 10 to allow teachers to address what students need to learn. Some believe the test should be moved to the spring as a measure of what students have learned. Opponents feel this leaves little time for student improvements. Would you support legislation to move the ISTEP+ test to the spring? | 5. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Legislators approved the creation of charter schools in 2002 which provides another public school option. Currently, Indiana has 25 charters in operation serving nearly 3,000 students. Do you support further expansion of the program? | 6. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Do you support amending the Indiana State Constitution to include language that would clearly define marriage as a union between a man and a woman? | 7. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Many Hoosiers saw their property taxes increase significantly because of the court-ordered reassessment. Would you support an increase in the state income tax if all of the revenue generated from the tax increase would go directly towards reducing or eliminating property taxes? | 8. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> | 8. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> |

Additional Comments: _____

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this survey. Your opinions are very important to me!



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Stay Informed

To keep you up-to-date on the many issues being considered by the Indiana General Assembly, I will be distributing brief updates discussing the challenges we face here in Indiana. If you are interested in receiving these periodic updates, please check the appropriate box.

- ☐ Please mail issue updates to my home address.
- ☐ Please Email issue updates to me. Subscribe now online at www.in.gov/S10 or clearly print your Email address here _____
- ☐ I am not interested at this time.

If address is different than above, please print corrections clearly or affix mailing label here.

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Broden '05 Legislative Survey Response

Please tape or staple here. Thank you.